



The Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman

Volume 39, Number 3

January 2010



Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 20 January, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

Pizza Night

Come enjoy a slice or two of pizza, complimentary of MMRA!
We will be meeting at the Southborough House of Pizza, rt. 30 in Southborough.
5 Main Street, Southborough, MA - (508) 481-6511

Talk in on Marlborough, 147.27



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MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month
9 AM at the Marlboro Public Library
Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ 781-891-9079
Evenings 6 - 10 PM Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.
Accredited by the ARRL VEC

About the Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA maintains a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The MMRA meets (usually) on the 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. Meeting time, locations and talk-in frequency vary. These are announced in the newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

The Minuteman newsletter is Emailed one week before each meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles may be sent to the editor via email to newsletter@mmra.org. The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Join us!

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are \$25 per individual or \$35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to contact@mmra.org. The MMRA maintains a web site at: <http://www.mmra.org/>

An email distribution list for club members named "MMRA" is at: www.yahoogroups.com/

No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

MMRA QRM Policy

MMRA members and all other operators are strongly encouraged to report repeater activity that does not abide by Part 97 rules or accepted amateur radio practice to the board of directors at contact@mmra.org or via other means.

The most effective (and probably the only effective) way to deal with an individual causing QRM is to NOT engage that individual on the air. Please include the time and date of any incident. Measures are being taken to make audio recordings of repeater activity.

Repeater and Frequency Information

Up-to-date information about both MMRA repeaters and affiliate repeaters can be found at

<http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/index.html>

New or Moved Repeater

Location	MHz	PL	Call	Linking	
				To Hub 1	To Hub 2
MMRA Voice Repeaters					
Marlborough	29.680	131.8	W1MRA	PTL	—
Marlborough	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL	—
Boston	145.160	—	W1MRA	D-Star	
Belmont	145.430	67.0	WA1RTT	—	—
Mendon	146.610	146.2	AE1C	FTL	PTL
Quincy	146.670	146.2	W1BRI	PTL	PTL
Burlington	146.715	146.2	N1NVL	PTL	PTL
Weston	146.790	146.2	N1BE	PTL	FTL Hub2 10-4
Brookline	146.820	146.2	K5TEC	FTL	PTL
Marlborough	147.270	146.2	W1MRA	PTL	PTL
Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	K1KWP	FTL	—
Quincy	224.400	103.5	N1KUG	Off the Air	
Weston	224.700	103.5	N1NOM	FTL	PTL
Marlborough	224.880	103.5	W1MRA	PTL	FTL
Weston	442.700	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub 2 (PTL to Hub 1)	
Burlington	446.775	88.5	W1DYJ	FTL	PTL
Southbor- ough	449.575	88.5	W1BRI	PTL	—
Marlborough	449.925	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub 1	
Boston	927.0625	D244	K1RJZ	PTL	—
Marlborough	927.700	D244	W1MRA	—	—
MMRA “Other” Systems					
Marlborough	144.390	none	W1MRA	APRS Digipeater	
???	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box	
Internet	Echolink node 94940				
	IRLP node 4133				

Notes: FTL = Full Time Linked (or default state)
PTL = Part Time Linked (on schedule or demand)
Note — a repeater can be linked to only one Hub at a time.

PL: PL is required to prevent interference. The code **750** will temporarily disable the MMRA PL on the 2M repeaters.

Autopatch: Only the Hub 1 has a telephone line. Link to Hub 1 if necessary, then bring up the autopatch using the 449.925 autopatch codes.

Public Service

Bruce Pigott — KC1US — Public Service Coordinator

Using the repeaters of the Minuteman Repeater Association for public service was discussed in the last newsletter. Now how do you get involved?

First, the season starts with supporting the world's oldest annual marathon — the Boston Marathon. The MMRA home page will have a direct link to the sign up web site for hams shortly. This year the race is on April 19, the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord with a different group of Minutemen. Assigning hundreds of operator slots requires that planning begins early. There are many areas available for you to work at along the course, the start or the finish. All levels of experience are needed. Further details and contact information will be available on the Marathon Amateur Radio Communications web site. MMRA members are heavily involved in the operator sign up process, race day communication equipment set up and volunteer logistics.

More opportunities will be mentioned in future months.

What is needed to participate at these events? Simple equipment for the smaller events will be sufficient. A two meter

hand held with an extended antenna is the bare minimum. This will allow you to reach more repeaters and operate on lower power. The manufacturer supplied antenna is good for local coverage, however the larger activities will use additional repeaters that are more distant. Your battery pack needs to last the entire event. Unless the event is a short one, an extra pack will be needed. This is good insurance in case one has not been charged recently or is advanced in age. Become familiar with your radio and its instruction manual before the occasion. There will be times you will have to check your operating mode, or program a new frequency, on site at your assignment. A combination speaker and microphone is a good accessory due to the typical noisy environment of these activities.

As you become more experienced, additional equipment will find its way into your bag. Items such as dual band radios, small magnetic mobile antennas and maps to support more events become necessities. See <<http://www.mmra.org/pubserv/index.html>> for a more extensive list of equipment applicable to the nature of the event.

President's Corner ~ AMPLIFIERS!

Bob DeMattia — K1IW

Who would ever have guessed that the main television transmitter for Channel 5 would be end up being final amplifiers for ham radio operators' 6m stations all over the globe? Well, that's exactly what happened! Club member K1RJZ, as chief engineer at WCVB saw an opportunity, offered it to us, and MMRA seized it!

The result, about 40 1KW solid state amps for 6m.

That was only the beginning. On a Saturday in December, a pack of hams descended upon the TV station's transmitter building and took the transmitter apart: Meter panels, amplifier modules, dummy loads, and various other parts were removed to be sold by the club. At this point in time, about ten amplifier modules are left.

But the excitement is not over - thanks to WIBNC at Hearst Television, we've been in contact with a chief engineer at another Hearst station. Another 25 amplifiers should be arriving shortly! I think I can speak for the entire board in expressing our appreciate to Hearst, WIBNC and K1RJZ for making this all possible. Additional thanks for to Dave Kaylor and Dave Beauvais (KB1QMX), also part of the channel 5 management team who were part of the project. Finally, I must thank the individuals that helped us decompose the transmitter.

Thanks to WCVB and K1RJZ



Before

After



November Membership Meeting

The PAVE PAWS Radar

Lt Col. Max Lantz, Commander, USAF 6th Space Warning Squadron presented a description of the U.S. Air Force's PAVE PAWS facility and its mission. He also fielded questions from the audience concerning PAVE PAWS and its relation to amateur radio.

The primary mission of the 6 SWS is to provide accurate and timely warning and space surveillance data to U.S. and allied decision makers for the

safety and security of North America.



The MMRA had the pleasure of having Lt. Col. Max Lantz pre-

sent the history of 6 SWS and discuss Ham Radio related issues. The information was much too thick to relate here.

Lt. Col.
Max Lantz



Lt. Col. Lantz
with Ed Hare,
W1RFI, ARRL's
Laboratory Man-
ager, RFI Guru,
and BPL expert.



Pave Paws



Lt. Col.
Lantz with
Mike
Neilson,
W1MPN,
ARRL
Eastern
Mass.
Section
Manager

Did You Know...

One of the discussion items that came up during the meeting is the following:

No station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 50 W PEP on the UHF 70 cm band from an area specified in footnote US7 to §2.106 of the FCC Rules...

This area is within a 100 mile radius of Otis. At least two active and long time MMRA members did not know this — your editor was one of them!



MMRA December Board of Directors Meeting

Bob Evans — N1BE — Clerk

The MMRA Board met at 7:30PM at the office of Conexant Systems in Waltham on Dec 16. Present were KC1US, W1BRI, WA1NVC, W1DYJ, K1KWP, N1BE, K1RJZ, K1IW, N1BDA, W1MPN, W1JMC, and W3EVE.

K1KWP presented a report of the status of the MMRA treasury. Surplus analog TV equipment contributions from WCVB (Channel 5) have been providing some unexpected income for the club. Donations received this year matched the costs of maintenance and improvements to the MMRA system. Memberships are down 21 from the end of last year.

K1IW discussed the price and cost of sales for surplus Larcen TV amps now being sold by the MMRA on eBay. The "high-split" units are on sale for \$350 each plus \$30 shipping. Shipping and the eBay fee costs about 10% of this amount. These amps are also available directly from the MMRA for \$320 plus \$30 shipping.

At present none of the more desirable "low-split" units are on hand; the board is investigating a possibility of receiving a few more of these units.

K1RJZ reported that changing the frequency of the Boston 900MHz repeater provided a significant reduction in the QRM from part 15 devices. The new frequency pair has been approved by NESMC.

WA1NVC suggested the MMRA get documentation of our agreements, to assure access to all repeater sites even if the persons providing liaison (the landlord) become unavailable to intervene. W1JMC agreed to compile this documentation. KC1US raised a secondary concern, to document the MMRA property at each repeater site; uniquely numbered asset tags were suggested as a way to provide this protection.

The Quincy 224.4 MHz repeater has been off the air for six months. However, there have been no complaints about this repeater being down. WA1NVC and W1BRI discussed the possibility of replacing the problematic Hamtronics exciter with some GE equipment. W1BRI offered to pull this equipment the next time he is at the site and check it out.

W1BRI proposed we rework/prepare the new Sligo shelter currently being stored in Marlborough. It needs to be cleaned up and wired for power before we can use it. That work could be done this spring.

Topics for the January and March meetings were next discussed.

Newsletter articles are due to W1DYJ on Dec 30th. There are only 10 members still receiving hardcopy newsletters. For quality control, it was suggested that the one hardcopy

sent to a board member should go to W1DYJ. W3EVE agreed to print and mail out the next hardcopy newsletter. In a related issue, the board approved printing 50 copies of an updated MMRA brochure for examinees at the monthly MMRA VE exams.

The board agreed to send a letter and plaque to WCVB thanking the station for their generous donations to the MMRA.

Thanks to WCVB and K1RJZ



Copper pipe coax before...



...after

FY '09-'10 Treasurer's Report [as of 16 December]

Kevin Paetzold ~ K1KWP

INCOME

Dues	\$3965
Donations	6300
Misc	823
Newsletters	40
Total	\$11,128

MEMBERSHIPMembers joined/renewed for

2007-2008	173
2008-2009	191
2009-2010	169

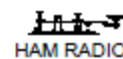
Members needed for parity with last year 22

EXPENDITURES

Improvements & Maint.	\$5974
Newsletter	210
Bank Fees	123
MRW Power	902
MRW Phone	211
Galaxy	256
ISP	150
Insurance	520
MRE Rent	150
Misc.	587
<u>Future Expected</u>	<u>530</u>
Total	\$9883



Algonquin Amateur Radio Club
Marlborough, MA



AMATEUR
RADIO

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 13, 2010



**Marlborough Intermediate
Elementary School**
(Marlborough Middle School)
Thresher Drive (off Union St.) or
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)
Marlborough, Massachusetts

6 ft. Tables (round and rectangular)
Tables are \$15.00 each if purchased by
February 5, 2010 (\$20.00 each accepted at the
door if space is available)
Tables include vendor admission for one
person.

SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM

Information:

Tim Ikeda - KA1OS

1-978-333-1329 before 9:00 PM

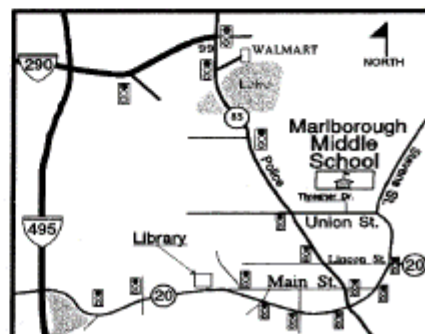
email: fleamarket@nlem.org

Talk In: MMRA 147.27+ (p1 146.2)
449.925- (p1 88.5)

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

General Admission: \$5.00

VEC Exams: 9:00 AM



The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, 1928

Don't Forget!

**Every Tuesday @ 8 PM
Technical, Informational
and Other Stuff Net**

The MMRA's repeaters are linked Tuesday nights for the TIAOS Net. Join us! This is a good way to keep up with what is happening in the MMRA and ask your ham related questions. **We need another net control!**

If you would like to try your hand at Net Control contact me at W1DYJ@mmra.org – we have a script you can use to start with. This is good practice for a number of ham related operations, from emergency preparedness to contesting.

Current Net Control Operators:

Week 1	WA1JIM	Jimmy Devaire
Week 2	???	OPEN
Week 3	W1DYJ	Larry Banks
Week 4	K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold
Week 5	W1DYJ	Larry Banks

MMRA Leaders

Officers

President	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	John McGovern	W1JMC
Treasurer	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Clerk	Bob Evans	N1BE
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI

Board of Directors

Director »2010	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director »2010	Mike Neilsen	W1MPN
Director »2011	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director »2011	Roger Coulson	WA1NVC

Repeater Trustees, Appointed

Belmont 145.430	Larry Arone	WA1RTT
Boston 927.775	Rick Zach	K1RJZ
Brookline 146.820	Bob Phinney	K5TEC
Burlington 146.715	Chris Conti	N2NVL
Burlington 446.775	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Hopkinton 223.940	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Marlboro 53.810, Quincy 146.670, Southboro 449.575	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Marlboro 144.390, 145.160, 147.270, 224.880, 449.925, Weston 442.700, 927.700 — all as W1MRA		
	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Mendon 146.610	Jim Podsiadlo	AE1C
Quincy 224.400	Bill Dunn	N1KUG
Weston 146.790	Bob Evans	N1BE
Weston 224.700	Eddie Mulhern	N1NOM

Appointed, non-Voting

Newsletter Editor	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Emergency Coord.	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Public Service Coord.	Bruce Pigott	KC1US
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Net Manager	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

Upcoming MMRA Meetings

All meetings start at 7:30 unless otherwise noted.

Date	Location	Feature
Wed, Sep 16	7PM Westborough	Membership Meeting
Wed, Oct 21	Stratus	Board Meeting
Wed, Nov 18	7 PM Milton Library	PAVE PAWS ~ Membership Meeting
Wed, Dec 16	Stratus	Board Meeting
Wed, Jan 20	7 PM, Sthboro Hse of Pizza	Membership Meeting
* Wed, Feb 10	Chin's Garden, Marlboro	Board Meeting
Wed, Mar 17	TBD	Membership Meeting
* Wed, Apr 14	TBD	Board Meeting
Wed, May 19	Clay Center, Brookline	Annual Meeting

* Not the 3rd Wednesday or not the normal time of 7:30PM

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 20 January, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

Pizza Night

Come enjoy a slice of two of pizza, complimentary of MMRA!

Calendar of Ham Radio Events

Public Service Events

Join this NEW Yahoo Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PublicServiceEvents/>

No events are listed.

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Markets

See this web site for contact information

<http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

6 Feb	Chelsea ME AARA @Crystal Falls
13 Feb	Marlboro MA AARC @Middle Sc
28 Feb	Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevittHal
6 Mar	Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @TurnverneinClb
20 Mar	Dayville CT ECARA @StJoseph Ch
21 Mar	Southington CT SARA @HS
21 Mar	Henniker NH CVRC @CommSch
27 Mar	Lewiston ME AARC ME Conv @Ramada
10 Apr	Middletown NY OCARC @Wallkill ComCtr
17,18 Apr	Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr
17 Apr	S Portland ME PAWA @AmLegion
18 Apr	Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT
30 Apr 1 May	Deerfield NH Nearfest @FG

THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

MMRA

P.O. Box 669

Stow, MA. 01775-0669

Email: contact@mmra.org



WE'RE ON THE WEB
[HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/](http://www.mmra.org/)
